

A Message From Bob...

Spring is right around the corner and we are so excited! In the late fall of last year, our children planted garlic and onions in the youth garden and will soon be getting the soil ready for spring and summer crops. Our volunteers under the leadership of Bill Shanabruh and Stacy Moulds planted 1,400 native plant plugs in our new wildflower meadow. Volunteers also planted goldenrod, asters, azaleas, rhododendron, and ferns. We have had a quiet winter and plenty of moisture. The temperatures are rising, and in walking around the park, I'm witnessing new growth of our planted materials. The chickens are beginning to lay eggs every day, birds are building nests, and our nesting hawks are active.

Our park is so happy because our school groups and home school groups are returning. The Saturday Literacy and Outdoor Club will resume on March 23rd with our wonderful and dedicated volunteers from Collegiate under the leadership of Esperanza Saria-Nieto. We are completing our 11th year of this program which includes fifty elementary students, ages 4 to 14. We are excited about our newest opportunity to host field trips for Richmond Public Schools for their preschool to second grade students. The park is HAPPY when children return from their winter break. It is magical to hear the joy in their voices when they are enjoying nature!

Our volunteers return to the park after a much deserved rest. Our Conserve and Create events resume April 6th and are planned for the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 - 12:00. You can register on [Hands On Greater Richmond](#) or email Mr. Bob at rargabright@me.com.

Come and enjoy the return of spring and all the color that it brings! Thank you for your help and support!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING DURING THE WEEK?

Please reach out to Mr. Bob
email: rargabright@me.com or call: (804) 310-1080

The park is HAPPY when our children are enjoying nature!



Early Childhood Nature Adventures

When children feel a sense of belonging in nature and are given the freedom to play and explore, they are better prepared physically, emotionally, and cognitively to succeed in school.

This spring, Bellemeade Outdoor Learning Center is working to reach more children at younger ages by partnering with Richmond Public Schools for a pilot field trip program.

By working with teachers to collaboratively plan the trips, we are preparing to become a vital resource to support student learning. We are grateful to Richmond Public Schools for joining us in the effort to promote equitable access to green spaces for learning, playing, and connecting with the natural world.

We cannot wait to welcome preschoolers and early elementary age students for their nature adventures! And we thank Carolyn Schuyler, founder of Wildrock and a recognized outdoor educator, for leading our development efforts!

Visit our website at www.bellemeadeparkva.com



EXPLORE SCIENCE



Outdoor Education

Field trips for **JRA and Blue Sky** are in the works!

Over 2500 students from Richmond Public Schools and Chesterfield will visit our outdoor learning center to explore science and connect with the outdoors this school year.

NATURE, SHARE, and CONNECT



Conserve and Create

Join us the first Saturday of each month for our "Conserve and Create" activities. If you'd like to volunteer, please register with us on **HandsOn Greater Richmond** or give Mr. Bob a call at 804-310-1080 or send him an e-mail at rargabright@me.com.

READ, PLAY, and EXPLORE



Saturday Literacy & Outdoor Club

We resume our Saturday Literacy & Outdoor Club which meets every Saturday from 10:00-12:30, beginning March 23rd. We are blessed to have a ten-year partnership with the **Collegiate School AP** Spanish students and approximately forty community Hispanic children from the ages of four to fourteen.

EXPLORE NATURE



Early Childhood Adventures

In partnership with RPS, Bellemeade will host pilot field trips with five southside elementary schools for preschool through second grade students. In Fall 2024 we plan to expand this program for young children to more schools and groups.





VISIT US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

The transformation of Bellemeade into 'the most beautiful park in Richmond'



Hours
7am - 10pm



All dogs
must be
leashed



No Alcohol



No
motorized
vehicles

Follow us for more insight



Contact us: friendsofbellemeadepark@gmail.com

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